NEWS of Virginia

REDUCED RATES DEMANDED.

Staunton (Special).—At the session of the Virginia Agricultural Society resolutions were unanimously adopted petitioning the corporation commission of Virginia to amend the express rates and make express companies pay taxes on a basis of 60 per cent. of the value as fixed by that commission instead of as at present. The express companies are now assessed at 40 per cent. of their gross earnings.

The following officers were elected for 1908:

President, W. F. Morrison; Vice Presidents, W. F. Wayland, J. R. Rowe, H. M. Lee, A. W. Harris, Jr., and Wm. Ruffin; Secretary, Andrew Baldwin; Treasurer, Goldsmith Davis; Directors at Large, Messrs. Morrison and Wayland, Capt. S. J. Quinn and Messrs. Goldsmith Davis, Frank S. Cole, George R. Fitzhugh, Alexander Pratt, S. H. Grattan Bradford, A. T. Embrey, Jr., William Carter, H. H. Lane, Henry Wayland Rowe, A. M. Gardner, G. W. Shepherd, W. H. Mann, James H. Dulin, Capt. M. B. Rowe, E. W. Landram, and M. S. Hutcheson.

TO EXPEL WHOLE CLASS?

Richmond (Special).—The entire sophomore class of the Medical College of Virginia, between 50 and 60 in number, is threatened with expulsion for the expulsion of Professor Gray, a member of the faculty, from a class in specialties anatomy. The trouble originated in the dismissal, last year, of the resignation of Professor Gray, who was charged with incompetency in the conduct of the anatomy class. Professor Gray was reinstated by the board of visitors, and the sophomore class, on the opening of the present session, refused to attend his lectures. The faculty called a mass meeting of the students, but the meeting was broken up by a fight between the students. The faculty will not take any action in the matter of the fight, the students, in anticipation of their expulsion, having left the college and will not follow the matter further.

MANY MEN OUT OF WORK.

Richmond (Special).—The Richmond Locomotive Works, employing 1,000 men, working in two shifts, 1,200 during the day and 500 during the night, and the best information obtainable is that the entire day force had gone to work and that all were working. Within a few days after the explosion relief parties, composed of brave, experienced men, headed by Superintendent John Brandom, of the shaft mine of No. 8, headed the first relief party. He had 10 men with him. Charles Prine, one of the men in that corps, was overcome by fire damp, and had to be brought out. He recovered only to meet with his life.

The deadly fire damp made it impossible to do much rescue work during the day, especially in Mine No. 8, where the explosion had wrecked the fan. Within an hour after the news brought from Shannon, 12 miles away, and put in working order, the fan was in a disadvantage.

Blown Across River.

The force of the explosion was one of the best in the country. It weighed thousands of pounds. It was thrown across the river, and was so terrific that heavy pieces of the fan were hurled for a distance of 400 feet. The engineer was killed and his assistant severely injured. Car-penters were at work all the after-noon repairing the fan, which is only yards off the mine entries so as to be ready for work.

The entombed miners are about 50 feet from the entrance to the tunnels for Italians and Poles. The majority of the men are Poles. They live in this country.

Driven Out By Fire And Gas.

Fairmont, W. Va. (Special).—One of the most disastrous fires in the history of coal mining in this country occurred at the Monongah mines, at which place 361 men lost their lives, and which for 36 hours has been seeking fresh victims. The fire which caused the entombed in mines Nos. 6 and 8, of the Fairmont Coal Company, were extended by the explosion of gas which broke out in Mines Nos. 6 and 8, of the Monongah Coal and Coke Company, the headquarters of both companies being at Monongah.

The Monongah mines are known as the best in the country. They are models of their kind, and the best methods of mining coal are employed in them. Two hundred and fifty men were employed in Mine No. 6 and 400 in Mine No. 8. The mines are connected by a tunnel 200 feet long, and the headquarters of the Fairmont Coal Company, the headquarters of the Monongah Coal and Coke Company, and the headquarters of the Consolidation Coal Company, which controls both companies, are at Monongah.

The Monongah mines are situated on the west side of the West Fork River, at this place, but merged in their underground workings by a heading and tunnel. They are reached by a great steel tipple and bridge.

The two mines regularly employ 1,000 men, working in two shifts, 500 during the day and 500 during the night, and the best information obtainable is that the entire day force had gone to work and that all were working. Within an hour after the explosion relief parties, composed of brave, experienced men, headed by Superintendent John Brandom, of the shaft mine of No. 8, headed the first relief party. He had 10 men with him. Charles Prine, one of the men in that corps, was overcome by fire damp, and had to be brought out. He recovered only to meet with his life.

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